

**REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-12.

The Examiner indicated that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 13 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 15, and have cancelled the latter claims.

Since independent claim 13 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 15, the rejection under 35 USC § 102 is believed obviated.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the entire case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter W. Peterson', written over a horizontal line.

Peter W. Peterson  
Reg. No. 31,867

**DeLIO & PETERSON, LLC**  
121 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06510-1241  
(203) 787-0595